

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042342

61

ORIGIN EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 /023 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 315

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 953 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ZAGREB

02 MAR 74

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV YO

SUBJECT: TITO'S HEALTH -- TITO BACK IN PUBLIC EYE

1. TANJUG RELEASED DATELINED KARADJORDJEVO (PRESIDENT'S HUNTING LODGE) MARCH 1 AND CARRIED ON FRONT PAGES BELGRADE PRESS MARCH 2 REPORTS THAT TITO, "WHO HAD BEEN TAKING SHORT REST AT KARADJORDJEVO ON DOCTORS' ADVICE," HAD GONE ON OUTING WITH MADAME BROZ AND WITH IVAN KRAJACIC (OLD PARTISAN AND PARTY FUNCTIONARY NOW ONLY HOLDING MEMBERSHIP IN HONORARY BODY-COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION). THEY WENT TO VINEYARDS OF PAJZOSIC, NEAR ILOK (VOJVODINA) WHERE THEY TOOK A WALK. TITO'S MOTORCADE PASSED THROUGH TOWNS OF BACKA PALANKA, ILOK AND SARANGRAD, WHERE TANJUG SAYS HE WAS WARMLY GREETED BY TOWNSPEOPLE.

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2. BELGRADE TV NEWS EVENING OF MARCH 1 HAD FILM OF OUTING SHOWING

TITO WALKING IN VINEYARDS, DRINKING GLASS OF WINE AND SMOKING
BIG CIGAR. HE WAS WELL BUNDLED UP AGAINST THE COLD AND WIND BUT
APPEARED FIT AND STEADY ON HIS FEET. COMMENT: SHOTS OF OLD MAN
WALKING, DRINKING AND SMOKING HIS CIGAR PERHAPS RATHER
SELF-CONSCIOUSLY CONTRIVED TO LAY TO REST RUMORS HERE OF SERIOUS
HEALTH PROBLEMS BUT SHOULD SUCCEED IN THIS AIM. QUESTION STILL
REMAINS WHY TITO DID NOT RECEIVE RAUL CASTRO DAY OR TWO EARLIER
(BELGRADE 0950) IF HE WAS AS WELL AS HE SEEMED TO BE.

3. DIPLOMATIC EDITOR OF TANJUG VELIMIR BUDIMIR TOLD CHARGE
MARCH 1 THAT TITO HAD COME DOWN WITH INFLUENZA AT TIME OF
ECHEVERRIA VISIT HERE AND HAD HAD SLIGHT FEVER.
JOHNSON
UNQTE CASEY

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